

the past year, to have commenced a systematic search for this valuable rock, but was prevented by a sudden indisposition; and the discharge of my duties in other portions of the State made it impracticable for me to return a second time to the county. I propose doing so early in the ensuing season.

Having thus indicated the leading features in the geology of the county, and furnished an account of the various mineral resources it contains, I may now revert to the use of the greensand and *black marl*, as great *agricultural* resources possessed by the farmers of Sasfras Neck and of the Bohemia Manor.

In tracing out the history of the discovery and of the use of these materials, I find, as might naturally have been expected, that they have at various times fixed the attention of persons who have been induced to try them. The peculiar aspect of these deposits, filled with anomalous shaped shells, totally unlike those that now inhabit our waters, could not fail to excite the curiosity of the observer, and the most obvious use that would suggest itself to which they might be applied was to the soil as a manure. Accordingly they have been tried, and although only on a small scale and very partially, the results are fortunately such as to relieve them from the imputation that their value is predicated solely upon theory.

The first experiment that appears to have been made with the *Black Marl*, is on a farm now in the possession of Mr. Seaverson. The spot was indicated to me by Mr. John W. Comegy's, who upon describing to him the material, recollected that something answering the description had been used upwards of twenty years ago, and that its effects were still visible. I rode to this farm on the afternoon of the 5th of August, in company with Commodore Jones. The marl was found to consist of a micaceous black sand filled with marine fossils, principally *gryphææ* and casts of the *cucculca Mortonii*, and effervesced briskly in vinegar. No account could be given of the quantity or mode in which it had been applied; but there could be no doubt that the spot where it was used manifested a decided improvement in the character and luxuriance of its vegetation. An experiment more recently made on an adjoining portion of the same field, gave equal evidences of amelioration, in the production of a well set sward of white clover, of which not a solitary sprig was to be seen elsewhere.

Another experiment, also of ancient date, seems to have been made at the head of the Big Bohemia. The material employed here is a ferruginous sand, with a very trifling intermixture of green particles, but containing numerous disintegrated shells of the *terrebratula harlani*. It was applied to a poor adjoining field, many years ago, which to this day produces better crops than any of the surrounding ones. But the most satisfactory evidence of the value of the *black marl* is to be seen on the farm of Mr. George Turner, at the head of a branch